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LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan concerning the situation on the Tajik-Afghan frontier which was handed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. T. Mardonov, to the Acting Consul of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Mr. Nuahmad Masud, on 22 February 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its attachment circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) L. KAYUMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement of 22 February 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan concerning the situation on the Tajik-Afghan frontier

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan presents its compliments to the Consulate of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in Dushanbe, and is authorized to express serious concern at the new attempts to exacerbate the situation on the Tajik-Afghan frontier. Armed groups of members of the anti-Government opposition who have found refuge in the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan are continuing to violate the frontier and bring artillery and rifle fire to bear on the sites of frontier posts and the areas where detachments of frontier guards are stationed in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan. In the period from the beginning of this year to 20 February alone, such firing has taken place more than 20 times. In particular, during the night of 19-20 February 1994, the frontier post's military camp at the Srednii Pyandzh settlement of the Pyandzh frontier guard detachment was subjected to rocket fire from the zone controlled by the 55th Infantry Division, under the command of General Kozi Kabir, in the territory of Afghanistan. As a result, one member of the Russian frontier troops died from the severe wounds he sustained, and the border post was partly destroyed.

On 21 February 1994, settlements in the Shurabad region of the Republic of Tajikistan - the villages of Paruar, Sarigor, Sary-Chashma and Anzhirobi Bolo - were subjected to rocket fire from the territory of Shahr-i-Buzurg district, Badakhshan province, Islamic State of Afghanistan. Simultaneously, a composite armed group consisting of Afghani citizens under the leadership of the Afghan Field Commander Kori Hamidullo and guerrillas of the Movement for the Islamic Rebirth of Tajikistan, led by Mullah Abdurakhim, crossed with hostile intent from the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan into the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, in the sector covered by the 12th frontier post of the Moskovsky frontier guard detachment.

At 10.45 a.m. local time on 21 February 1994, a military confrontation began between the above-mentioned group of frontier violators and personnel of the Russian Federation's frontier troops, who are being assisted by special units of the Ministry of Security of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan views these actions as deliberate provocation aimed at disrupting the process of normalization of the situation in the Republic of Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan frontier.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan is reliably informed that the armed anti-Government bands of the Movement for the Islamic Rebirth of Tajikistan located in the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan have planned a series of hostile actions against the territory and civilian population of the Republic of Tajikistan in the directions of Shaartuz, Kumsangir, Pyandzh and Shurabad.

The presence and activity in Afghan territory of such forces acting to destabilize the situation in frontier regions of the Republic of Tajikistan bear witness to interference by the Islamic State of Afghanistan in the internal affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. All of this is taking place in violation of the frontier agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and is in contravention of articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-Neighbourliness between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan calls on the Afghan side to take effective and tangible steps to halt the provocations and unlawful acts by the armed Tajik opposition and Afghan military units on the frontier, and declares that it reserves the right to take firm and decisive measures to halt such provocations, up to and including destruction of the weapons of the guerrillas in Afghan territory.